

I rise again to support the rule and the legislation, with concerns, and I hope we can work our will on some of those concerns.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that much of this bill I am very supportive of, but I want to talk about one component that has been left out of this bill.

Many years ago, about 1990, Congress passed something called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. At that time, Congress admitted, the Federal Government admitted that it had lied to people in this country about the safety, the safety of open air nuclear testing, the safety of those who worked in the uranium mines. I have constituents in my State, in my State who are dying from these conditions. Congress admitted they were at fault, that the Federal Government lied to these folks and they said, we are going to compensate you for this.

But something interesting happened in the past year. We did not appropriate enough money. So we had people literally dying that were sent letters saying, well, you do qualify for this compensation, we just do not have money from Congress to pay you.

Now, we took care of it this year on a short-term basis with a supplemental appropriation, and that was fine and good. We got payments to some of those folks before they died, but there is no reason for us to have to go through this on a year-by-year basis. We should make this a mandatory component. It is not in the Commerce-State-Justice conference report that we are looking at now.

It is my understanding, however, that on the Senate side there is discussion about making this a more permanent program in the defense authorization. I hope that we can reach agreement on that. We have not had that bill move through the House yet. But it is imperative, it is imperative that we recognize the wrongs that we have committed and that we provide these good folks with compensation.

I can tell my colleagues from my own personal experience, my family had many people living in southern Utah during the open air nuclear testing during the 1950s. Many people have died of cancer at an early age. There is no question that it is related to what was going on with the open air testing, and they were told, they were told by the government that it was safe. Yet we found out later on the government only did that open air nuclear testing when the prevailing winds took the fallout to the least populated areas, which happened to be southern Utah.

So as I say, while many aspects of this bill I support, I am disappointed that this was omitted from this conference report. I hope and urge Congress to take up this matter in the defense authorization bill.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, with that, I would just say please support the rule and the bill. I think it is in pretty good shape.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1258

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying H.R. 2500, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 286, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Friday, November 9, 2001 at page H7986.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I am pleased to bring to the House floor the conference report on the fiscal year 2002 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations. The conference report represents a sound bill, funding continuing and expanded operations for the Departments and agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, most importantly, those that would help make America safer in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States.

The bill provides resources for critical programs to both prosecute those responsible and prevent future attacks. We have provided significant increases for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the State Department, and State and local law enforcement. These increases will provide the tools and resources necessary to fight terrorism here in America, make our borders more secure, and build a multilateral coalition against terrorism.

Today, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member of our subcommittee, for his support throughout this entire process. He has helped us get a strong bill through the House, and I appreciate it very much.

□ 1300

I would also like to extend my sympathies to my colleague with respect to the terrorist attacks on New York City. His community lost family and friends, and I, along with my colleagues, send our heartfelt sympathies to all the families who lost so many in these horrendous attacks and in the plane crash on Monday in New York. Twenty-seven of my constituents, and many others from the Northern Virginia region, were also killed in the attack on the Pentagon, and we are indeed privileged to have the ability to work on a bill that will help our communities recover from the events of September 11 and will have a positive impact on the security needs of our great Nation.

I also want to extend my thanks to Chairman HOLLINGS and Senator GREGG, and to all the members of our subcommittee; the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) of the majority, and in addition to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), our ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) of the minority.

Today, I believe we have written a bill that will support the country as it strives to meet its new challenges and as it works to secure freedom from fear and terrorism.